

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## A Christmas Greeting.

A merry Christmas to all readers of the EVANGELIST, to the whole brotherhood, to all mankind whether of our communion or of another or of no communion at all,—this is our wish and this our hope. May it be to all a day of joy and gladness in the Lord. And why should it not be so? To this end was Jesus born. The mission of the Christ of God into the world was a mission of love, and mercy, and peace, and good will to men. It tells of a Father's love, and a Father's care, the great heart of the infinite God going out in tenderest sympathy and pitying mercy, for his dear children on earth; and it tells of the coming of a cloudless morning with its sweeter joys and its richer love, of a home in a graveless world where our fondest hopes and imaginings of the human heart will be forever satisfied in the fulness of Christ. On that eventful morning, the most eventful in the history of the universe and in the biography of God, when the angelic choir chanted the immortal song above the Judean hills by the shepherds' fields near Bethlehem, on that morning hope rekindled her torch, joy and gratitude were quickened in the human heart, God gave to the world his sweetest, most precious and priceless gift; yea, he gave, out of the great love and the rich treasure of his heart, that unspeakable gift, the only begotten of the Father. That wonderful event, the incarnation, gave to the world a new hope, the reassurance of immortality and taught mankind the need and the possibility of the divine life of God in the soul.

Bethlehem, name ever dear to Christian heart! For years the church has sung the song of sweet "Galilee, where Jesus loved so much to be," but sweeter still is the name of Bethlehem, a name immortalized by poet, painter, and historian. Here the Son of God was born. Here the prophecy of the ages was fulfilled. Here life and immortality were brought to light. Here heaven and earth kissed each other, God and man locked arms in the babe in the manger. From that manger there has opened up a fountain of immortal youth; from it there streams forth rays of sunlight which warm, lighten, and cheer every heart that names the name of Jesus. May he, of the tender heart, the heart large enough to take in all our sorrows and griefs and woes, our hopes and joys and aspirations, may he change our earthly cheerfulness into heavenly joy, transform the sorrows of this world into a "weight of eternal glory" in the world to come; may he give us all the largeness and fulness of the divine life which Jesus came to give. Kneeling today at the manger in Bethlehem where Divine Love is wrapped in swaddling clothes may we receive into our hearts, our homes and our lives the blessings of the Incarnate God.

### The Church Paper

A church member who does not read his church paper will come short in all the interests and activities and sympathies which are essential to a healthy spiritual growth and an effective influence. A pastor who is anxious to see all his church members interested, active and efficient in the work of the church, will seek to put the church paper in their hands. A little solicitation, particularly when he is on his visiting rounds, a little notice from the pulpit occasionally, calling the attention of his people to important articles and special numbers, would awaken such an interest in the paper as to greatly enlarge its circulation and sphere of influence. In a way, the humble agent who induces a family to subscribe for the paper becomes a preacher of truth, and an instrument of grace, to that entire family for a year. In this way he serves Christ. How many opportunities are there in your congregation for a service like this? Inquire, and find out. Round up the families that are not taking the church paper, and make it a point to induce them all to do so.

### Love and Liberty

The way of love is the way of liberty, and larger life. Even the self-willed and obstinate, who can be dominated by nothing else, submit joyfully to the domination of love. The favorite child of an autocrat or a tyrant rules him completely, because this rule runs rapturously along the channel of his egoism, his inner consciousness. Yet we find it difficult to surrender ourselves without reserve to God, tho we know that God is love. Why do we hesitate to let him have his way with us and in us? Why do we thus halt on the very threshold of joy and power? A false and fatal persuasion is that which frightens us away from God's love for fear that it means a narrower, a more hedged in, a more restricted life. It means a larger life, a satisfying, glorious fulness of life. Try it. Why languish in a miserable hut when you might range thro the splendid halls and galleries of a palace.

### Two Kinds of Elocution

Truth is truth, no matter how it is dished out, but it cannot be denied that manner has a plenty to do with the effectiveness of its presentation and its objective influence. This is the reason young preachers should study the most sane and natural principles of elocution. Sometime since we heard a remarkable display of yellocution. Like the